

Session Top Choices from Book Study Results 11-11-23 – 7 participants

I. Little or No Risk Activity (Easy)

A. Radical Hospitality

Create a system for visitor/member to follow up on yellow attendance forms. **SS MH**

Begin meals at restaurants for various small groups: men; women; youth grade 6-12; children 0-grade 5 with parents; young adults aged 18-35; adults aged 36-60; wise adults aged 60+ **GS**

Make the online calendar more complete so everyone can be aware of all activities at or pertaining to FPC. Mail copies of calendars to those who are not computer users. Post monthly calendar on bulleting board, or on pole in lobby where Carrie posted the First Light Schedule. **SH**

Prepare 4' x 8' laminated bookmark or flier about FPC services, programs, contact info, links, for use at Pumpkin Fest, Little Lambs, for visitors, and other uses. With URL, QR code, webpage address. See All Saints Parish flier for a good example. **SH**

Ask visitors to stand up and be recognized. **RH**

Have greeters write names on tags when new people come **3 JG**

Assign a guest a buddy after new person's second visit **SW**

B. Passionate Worship

Continue RSCM church choir **MH**

Continue minister and Robert working together for seamless music and sermon that "match" that we are used to. **SH**

Resume home communion **GS**

Increase laughter in church. **SS**

Ask youth to be liturgists **RH**

Create new pulpit exchange with Pastor Ange Humphrey of St. Lucas UCC and Fresh Air Community of Faith, and Rector Holly Rankin Zaher of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. **SW**

C. Intentional Faith Development

Hold a confirmation class for young people. **MH**

Enhance online ministry with every-other-week half-hour concerts and every-other-week half-hour prayer times like Robert and Kevin did during Covid. **SH**

Have classes – one-time short-term (i.e., 4 or 6 weeks) topics **GS**

Continue special services: Longest Night, World Aids Day, Thanksgiving, Homeless Remembrance, those who passed, social workers, etc. **SS**

Have a class on what being a Presbyterian is all about **RH**

Do more with social media to connect Sunday worship to the rest of the week. **SW**

Continue joint Thanksgiving service with One God One Community **2 JG**

D. Risk-Taking Mission and Service

Bring back the Giving Tree or combine forces with HCAD for their 3rd Annual Giving Day of Warmth on December 16. **3 SS MH**

Partner more with Young and Established (Courtney Johnson) **GS**

Partner with St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 301 SE First St, Rector Holly Rankin Zaher. They operate a food pantry. **SH**

Present grief/loss counseling or classes **RH**

Find a replacement for what we used to do at the Potter's Wheel (United Caring Services?) **SW**

Offer support group for people hurt by church experiences **JG**

E. Extravagant Generosity

Remind people that generosity is not just about money, it is also about giving your time and talents. **MH**

Create a better list of volunteers, so it is not just the same people doing things all the time. **GS**

Be careful not to insult or embarrass the less resourced and those with low or fixed incomes during the generosity campaign. **SH**

Encourage giving time and talent to help offset the costs of the budget. **SS**

Encourage giving time & talent to help offset costs in church budget. **RH**

Talk about other ways to give monthly: on-line banking payments, or thru the website. Offer support & education to set up online giving. **2 SW**

Talk more about successes, less about fears **JG**

II. Moderate Risk Activities (Challenging)

A. Radical Hospitality

Reinstitute Pumpkinfest, hand out FPC fliers, advertise Vacation Bible School there. **RH**

Be a Front Porch Fest location **GS**

Invite neighbors to a simple soup and bread supper with Ash Wednesday service and have fliers available with the rest of our Lenten and Easter programming. Market to ECHO, SWIMHC, Mulberry Square Apartments, HCAD (Haynie's Corner has a FB page) and United Caring Services. **SH**

Hold outdoor events in the spring/summer/fall, during First Fridays: music, cornhole, magic, with simple food and flier about FPC. May through October = 6, so try to do 3. **MH**

Have movies in the church more often just to bring people in that are uplifting or inspirational. **3 SW SS**

Propel music outside for the neighbors **JG**

B. Passionate Worship

Have services outdoors. **MH GS**

Change the way we do communion, not every time. **SS SH**

Be open to changing worship when the new Pastor arrives. **RH**

Use church members (including youth) to give sermons occasionally (like the 5th Sundays) **SW**

Have a church wide retreat **2 JG**

C. Intentional Faith Development

Reinstate Vacation Bible School, and invite church neighborhood including placing fliers at ECHO, SWIMHC, and Vanderburgh County Health Department. **RH SS SH**

Strengthen One God One Community **MH**

Offer more small group studies, daytime, nighttime, at First Pres, and other places, Zoom option especially when evenings are dark. **SW GS**

Bring back Sacred Art Series **JG**

D. Risk-Taking Mission and Service

Include the congregation, including the children and youth, in a service project, especially something that anyone can do. **SS**

Reinstate News4U Q & A article **GS**

Support Greater Evansville Youth **SH**

Have a service project on the 5th Sundays. **RH**

Find a project to support something overseas. **SW**

Create a community garden in our courtyard **JG**

E. Extravagant Generosity

Give one time toward a project **SS**

Help congregants understand that taking care of our historical building is important, and one of the things we love about FPC. **GS**

Hold a capital campaign to preserve the church building for the next 80 years. **SH**

Help congregants make FPC part of their personal budget process. **RH**

Help congregants think about including the church in their estate planning. **SW**

Do online crowdfunding for projects **JG MH**

III. Substantial Risk Activities (Bold)

A. Radical Hospitality

Redesign sanctuary lobby (choir loft) and Narthex to add a lift and add an upstairs bathroom. Currently disabled people are contemplating leaving the choir because of the steps, and others never joined the choir or handbells because of the steps. Add rocking chairs, chairs with arms, spaces for wheelchairs, and a crying room. **MH GS SH**

Put up a digital sign that shows what is going on, where to park, etc., (check rules of Historical District first) **SW RH**

Create spaces for activities related to recreation and wellness: basketball courts, shuffleboard courts, hopscotch, yoga room, meditation room, and table tennis. **JG**

B. Passionate Worship

Consider having the traditional service early (older people get up earlier) and the contemporary service later (younger people get up later). **JG**

C. Intentional Faith Development

Have a get-together for asking questions you might be afraid to ask about God or faith. **JG SW RH MH**

D. Risk Taking Mission and Service

There are several group homes in the area. Determine who manages a given home, and ask can we adopt residents for holidays, birthdays, etc. Be sure to try to find a home that is not private pay, for residents who do not have assets. **RH SS MH GS**

Recreate a new version of the old Council of Churches. Create 2 different groups: one of the churches in our census tract, one of the open, affirming, progressive churches in the tri-state. **SW SH**

Switch from current 95% attractational activities and 5% missional activities to 75% attractational activities and 25% missional activities, on the road to 50% attractational activities and 50% missional activities. **JG**

E. Extravagant Generosity

Work with Partners for Sacred Places, Indiana Landmarks, Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships, and Center for Congregations and determine what grant funds are available for building repairs, building upgrades, energy savings, new programming, and use of the building space, and faith formation and educational programs for the church, congregation, and community. **JG RH SS MH SH GS**

IV. Items mentioned by multiple book study groups

Continue Beer Choir 3

Find out what the perception of the church is in the church neighborhood with fliers, postcards, Penny Lane, and Memorial Baptist (Rev. Adrian Brooks) 2

Form a marketing committee 2

Have greeters write names on name tags when new people come 3

Have more events to bring 8:30 and 10:30 service attendees together 2

Have sidewalk greeters 3

Make a banner for the Blessing of the Animals 2

Publicize events – things for parents with kids – fun and approachable events like Beer Choir 2

Reinstate Breakfast with Santa and raise more funds for free tickets for neighborhood kids and parents (United Caring Services parents, Mulberry Square apartments, ask Echo Clinic and Health Department Nurses to invite neediest of families. Market at Penny Lane and HCAD 2

Revive the Dinner with Friends program 3

Continue Blessing of the Animals (add collecting pet food for It Takes a Village, PAWS, Animal Control, or Another Chance for Animals, and ask that agency to bring adoptable dogs and cats in cages. Invite our church neighborhood. Host the event at the dog park or at one of the rescue facilities. 2

Counteract “high church” perception – it is scary/unfamiliar 2

Do not lump all people together – we are not all the same 2

Continue Halloween Silent Movie fundraiser for Music programs 2

Help Isaiah 1:17 with foster family needs – food, school supplies – Erin Carver 2

Host craft workshops open to the public – quilting, knitting, scrapbooking, handmade greeting cards 2

Work with the Evansville Economic Improvement District 2

Help kids develop a habit of giving by asking them to put coins in the offering plates or asking them to share some of their Halloween Candy 2

Christmas Carol outside church, at other fixed locations, Penny Lane, Mulberry Square apartment complex, or at a nursing home, assisted living facility, group homes, in our church neighborhood, at our own shut in's homes. 2

Include broader types of music – include music that appeals to younger people – host concerts with other types of music 3

Host an anti-gun rally or march 2

V. Desired Attributes of the New Pastor

Provide excellent, authentic, justice-oriented worship, not forced, not ritual/rote. **SS**

Be progressive, open, affirming, open-minded & accepting, share faith, hope, and energy. **2 JG MH**

New Pastor has our permission to try things and fail. **2 SW**

New Pastor has our permission to leave the pulpit and walk down the aisles and stand in front of and among us during the service. **SW**

Provide prayer and visits to those in hospital, nursing facilities, and homebound **SH**

State in MDP that minority & LGBTQ+ pastor candidates are welcome. **GS**